



The Florida House of Representatives

Chris Sprowls
Speaker

NEWS RELEASE

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House Speaker Sprowls, Appropriations Chair Trumbull Highlight Florida House's State Budget that Prepares Florida Today for a Better Tomorrow

Proposal Includes Record Levels of Reserves, Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (March 26, 2021) – Amid historic challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, Florida House of Representatives Speaker Chris Sprowls, R-Palm Harbor, and Appropriations Chair Jay Trumbull, R-Panama City, today unveiled a timely and relevant state budget proposal that prepares Florida today for a better tomorrow. Throughout the budget process, Members remained focused on a long-term vision for the state with strategic investments in Florida's students, environment and more.

The budget includes unprecedented levels of reserves, to prepare Florida for unexpected events, from pandemics to hurricanes and other natural disasters. In addition to reserves in excess of \$5 billion -- almost double prior years' totals -- the House includes funding for an Emergency Preparedness and Response Fund with \$1 billion, as well. This budget includes only a minor increase in spending of state funds, less than 1% over the prior year.

"Today, we are delivering a budget that is adapting to this challenging moment in our state's history – addressing critical areas of concern while maintaining fiscal responsibility," said Speaker Sprowls. "Our House's budget proposal addresses long-term needs with strategic investments that will have lasting effects on our state residents. We were able to achieve this by making targeted reductions in areas that had the greatest flexibility, particularly in institutions that receive substantial direct federal funding, including higher education and health care. With this budget, House Members and subcommittee chairs also worked to prioritize the long-term needs of the state over their short-term personal priorities. Rather than emphasizing projects, we

chose to focus on investments in broad issues to ensure that Florida's needs – of both today and tomorrow – are met."

"Our Members' commitment to our environment, our families and communities are seen throughout this budget," said Chair Trumbull. "From supporting school districts as they look to locate and re-enroll students not attending class to full restoration of Florida's transportation work program, we recognize the challenges over the past year, and we have focused on making strategic investments for Florida's future. This is a balanced budget that reflects our belief that the state should not spend more than it takes in, and we look forward to working with our partners in the Senate to provide the best product to the Governor for his signature."

The House's proposal addresses the needs of Florida's residents and children by increasing K-12 funding by \$181 per student. The budget also allocates funds to locate missing students, re-enroll students and remediate learning losses. Furthermore, the House's proposal has no reductions in Bright Futures tuition or fee allocations, no reductions in need-based aid and no increases in tuition.

This budget addresses the pressing issue of maternal mortality by extending postpartum Medicaid coverage from two months to a full year. It also increases Healthy Start funds for Florida's kids by \$32 million to ensure that they have access to the care they need to grow and thrive.

As effects of the pandemic subside and tourism to and throughout Florida increases, Florida will be ready. The House makes record investments of \$200 million in beach renourishment and \$50 million in state park maintenance -- the largest respective appropriations in the history of the state. The budget also proposes \$3.5 billion in funding to address state buildings and college and university facilities in disrepair. Further, the budget restores the State Transportation Trust Fund to its pre-pandemic levels, allowing funding of the state's road, airport and other critical transportation infrastructure needs.

For the first time ever, the House takes a comprehensive approach to addressing critical infrastructure needs for all Floridians by allocating about \$140 million each in recurring funds for affordable housing, septic-to-sewer conversions and mitigating the effects of flooding and sea level rise. The budget also allocates an additional \$140 million of nonrecurring funds in each silo, bringing the current total funds for affordable housing, septic-to-sewer and flood resiliency to \$280 million in each program for total spend of \$840 million. The plan provides for long-term stability in funding across all of these critical areas.

In the wake of recent cybersecurity threats such as those experienced by the Department of Business & Professional Regulation, Department of Economic Opportunity and Florida Healthy Kids, the budget recommends first-time investments in Florida's cybersecurity infrastructure to shield Floridians from future threats to their personal and confidential data.

Finally, this budget includes innovative solutions for the Department of Corrections to deal with chronic vacancy and retention issues with correctional officers. The proposal invites the

Department to develop a plan to find cost-savings through consolidation and fully invest those savings into salaries and benefits for correctional officers.

Key Facts About the Florida House's 2021-22 Budget

The proposed budget released today totals \$97.1 billion and includes funding for 113,557 positions. This breaks down to:

- \$34.9 billion in General Revenue
- \$24.7 billion State Trust Funds
- \$37.4 billion Federal Trust Funds

There is a total increase of \$4.8 billion (or 5.2%) over the current-year budget; however, most of the increase is related to a \$4.4 billion federal funds infusion. Those funds were for increased Medicaid costs and COVID-19 response funds that went to the Department of Education.

The House Proposed Committee Bill APC 21-01 will be taken up by the House Appropriations Committee on Wednesday, March 31.

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